JS 44 (Rev. 04/21)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

| I. (a) PLAINTIFFS | (a) DI AINTIEFS | | | | | DEFENDANTS | | | | | | |
|---|---|--|--|---------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-------------|--|--|--|
| 23/47/ | | | | CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT | | | | | | | | |
| EDAWRD O'REGAN andANA VIQUEZ | | | CENTIVAL | CLIVITAL BOOKS SOLICOL DISTRICT | | | | | | | | |
| | as Parents and Natural Guardians of L.O. (b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Bucks | | | | County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Bucks | | | | | | | |
| (· ·) | NCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CA | Sucks | County of Resid | (IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY) | | | | | | | | |
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| | | | THE TE | RACTO | F LAND IN | VOLVED. | | | | | | |
| (c) Attorneys (Firm Name, A | Address, and Telephone Number | r) | Attorneys (If Kn | iown) | | | | | | | | |
| David S. Desser | n, Esq. 600 Easton F | Road, Willow Grov | re, | | | | | | | | | |
| • | -496-2902, ddessen | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| II. BASIS OF JURISD | ICTION (Place an "X" in | One Box Only) | III. CITIZENSHIP O | | INCIPA | L PARTIES (| Place an "X" in a and One Box for L | One Box fo. Defendant) | r Plaintiff | | | |
| 1 U.S. Government | x 3 Federal Question | | (For Diversity Cases (| Only) PTF | DEF | a | na One Box joi L | PTF | DEF | | | |
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| 2 U.S. Government | 4 Diversity | | Citizen of Another State | | 2 2 | Incorporated and P | | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | | | |
| Defendant | | ip of Parties in Item III) | | | | of Business In A | nother State | | | | | |
| | | | Citizen or Subject of a | | 3 3 | Foreign Nation | | ☐ 6 | ☐ 6 | | | |
| | | | Foreign Country | | | | | | | | | |
| IV. NATURE OF SUIT | | | | | | for: Nature of S | | | | | | |
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| 120 Marine 130 Miller Act | 310 Airplane 315 Airplane Product | 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability | 690 Other | 001 | 28 USC 157 | | 3729(a)) | | | | | |
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| 150 Recovery of Overpayment | 320 Assault, Libel & | Pharmaceutical | | PROPERTY RIG | | | 410 Antitrust 430 Banks and Banking | | | | | |
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| 190 Other Contract | Product Liability | 380 Other Personal | 720 Labor/Management | | | L SECURITY | Protect 490 Cable/ | ction Act | | | | |
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| 240 Torts to Land | 443 Housing/ | Sentence | | | _ | Defendant) | 896 Arbitra | | rocedure | | | |
| 245 Tort Product Liability | Accommodations | 530 General | IMMIGRATION | | | -Third Party USC 7609 | | cvicw or A | | | | |
| 290 All Other Real Property | 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment | 535 Death Penalty Other: | 462 Naturalization Appl | tion Application | | 000 1003 | Agency | | | | | |
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| | Cite the U.S. Civil Sta | atute under which you ar | e filing (Do not cite jurisdiction | nal statu | tes unless d | liversity): | | | | | | |
| VI CALISE OF ACTIO | 42 U.S.C 1983 | | | | | | | | | | | |
| VI. CAUSE OF ACTION | Brief description of ca | | NATIONAL CONTRACTOR OF CONTRACTOR | | | | | | | | | |
| | | ue process; unlawful Title S IS A CLASS ACTION | DESCRIPTION OF | | | CHECK VES only | if domanded | in comple | int: | | | |
| VII. REQUESTED IN | DEMAND \$ | | | | | | | | | | | |
| COMPLAINT: | UNDER RULE 2 | 13, F.R.CV.P. | | | | TURY DEMAND | : Yes | NO | , | | | |
| VIII. RELATED CAS | E(S) | | | | | | | | | | | |
| IF ANY (See instructions): JUDGE | | | | | | | | | | | | |
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| 12/3/2024 | | | Week | | • | | | | | | | |
| FOR OFFICE USE ONLY | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| RECEIPT # A | MOUNT | APPLYING IFP | JUD | OGE | | MAG. JU | DGE | | | | | |

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

DESIGNATION FORM

Place of Accident, Incident, or Transaction: 20 Welden Road, Doylestown, PA 18901

| RELATED CASE IF ANY: Case Number: | _Judge: | X X | | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------------|-----|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| 1. Does this case involve property included in an earlier numbered suit? | | | | | | | | |
| 2. Does this case involve a transaction or occurrence which was | | | | | | | | |
| 3. Does this case involve the validity or infringement of a patent which was the subject of an earlier numbered suit? Yes X | | | | | | | | |
| 4. Is this case a second or successive habeas corpus petition, social security appeal, or pro se case filed by the same individual? | | | | | | | | |
| 5. Is this case related to an earlier numbered suit even though none of the above categories apply? Yes If yes, attach an explanation. | | | | | | | | |
| I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, the within case \square is / X is not related to any pending or previously terminated action in this court. | | | | | | | | |
| Civil Litigation Categories | | | | | | | | |
| A. Federal Question Cases: | B. Diversity Jurisdiction Cases: | | | | | | | |
| 1. Indemnity Contract, Marine Contract, and All Other Contracts) 2. FELA 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Antitrust 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Wage and Hour Class Action/Collective Action 6. Patent 7. Copyright/Trademark 7. Products Liability 8. Employment 8. Employment 8. All Other Diversity Cases: (Please specify) 11. Habeas Corpus 12. Securities Cases 13. Social Security Review Cases 14. Qui Tam Cases 15. Cases Seeking Systemic Relief *see certification below* 16. All Other Federal Question Cases. (Please specify): 17. Insurance Contract and Other Contracts 18. Airplane Personal Injury 2. Asignature 2. Airplane Personal Injury 3. Assault, Defamation 4. Marine Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 5. Motor Vehicle Personal Injury 6. Other Personal Injury 7. Products Liability 8. All Other Diversity Cases: (Please specify) 9. Labor-Management Relations 9. Labor-Managem | | | | | | | | |
| federal law including a rule, regulation, policy, or order of the executive branch or a state or federal agency, whether by declaratory judgment and/or any form of injunctive relief. | | | | | | | | |
| ARBITRATION CERTIFICATION (CHECK ONLY ONE BOX BELOW) | | | | | | | | |
| I certify that, to the best of my knowledge and belief: X Pursuant to Local Civil Rule 53.2(3), this case is not eligible for arbitration either because (1) it seeks relief other than money damages; (2) the money damages sought are in excess of \$150,000 exclusive of interest and costs; (3) it is a social security case, includes a prisoner as a party, or alleges a violation of a right secured by the U.S. Constitution, or (4) jurisdiction is based in whole or in part on 28 U.S.C. § 1343. None of the restrictions in Local Civil Rule 53.2 apply and this case is eligible for arbitration. | | | | | | | | |
| NOTE: A trial de novo will be by jury only if there has been compliance with F.R.C.P. 38. | | | | | | | | |

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA

EDWARD O'REGAN and ANA VIQUEZ as Parents and Natural Guardians of L.O.¹ 45 Woodview Drive Chalfont, PA 18914,

Plaintiffs

vs. No.

CENTRAL BUCKS SCHOOL DISTRICT 20 Welden Drive Doylestown, PA 18901,

Defendant

COMPLAINT

PARTIES

- 1. Plaintiffs Edward O'Regan and Ana Viquez (hereinafter referred to as "O'Regan") are adult individuals residing at 45 Woodview Drive, Chalfont, PA 18914 and the parents and natural guardians of their minor son, L.O.
- 2. Defendant Central Bucks School District (hereinafter referred to as "School District") is a municipal school district organized and existing under the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, with its principle office located at 16 Welden Drive, Doylestown, PA 18901.
- 3. At all times relevant to the events set forth in this Complaint, L.O was a 10th grade student at Central Bucks High School South (hereinafter referred to as the "high school"), a high school operated and maintained by the School District.

JURISDICTION AND VENUE

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¹ L.O. and other minors are identified only by the initials of their first and last names.

- 4. This Court has jurisdiction to decide O'Regan's claims pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1331 and 28 U.S.C. § 1343.
- 5. Pursuant to 28 U.S.C. §1391(b)(1) and (2), venue is proper in this Court since the Defendant resides in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and all of the events at issue took place in the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

FACTS

- 6. L.O., D.F., J.F. and R.W. are male 10th grade students at the high school.
- 7. D.F. and J.F. are brothers.
- 8. G.R. is a 19-year old woman with Down's Syndrome and a student at the high school.
- 9. In the afternoon, L.O., D.F., J.F. R.W and G.R. are transported from the high school to their homes on School District bus 357.
- 10. On September 16, 23, 24, 25, 26 and 27, 2024, various interactions took place between L.O., D.F., J.F., R.W. and G.R. on bus 357 including a physical altercation between D.F. and G.R. during the afternoon of September 23, 2024.
- 11. Between September 16, 2024 and October 1, 2024, neither L.O., D.F., J.F., R.W. nor G.R. made a complaint to the School District alleging that they were discriminated against because of their sex or harassed because of their sex as a result of anything that occurred on bus 357.
- 12. On or about October 1, 2024, J.F. told Erin Scholl, his education support teacher, about the incident on bus 357 that occurred on September 23, 2024 as well as about various other incidents on bus 357 in which G.R. was involved.

- 13. The next day, October 2, 2024, Ms. Scholl sent an email summarizing her conversation with J.F. to Jennifer Opdyke, the high school Class of 2027 House Principal.
- 14. After reading Ms. Scholl's email, Ms. Opdyke started an investigation and spoke with J.F., D.F. and G.R. as well as with their parents.
- 15. During the interviews with Ms. Opdyke, neither J.F., D.F., G.R. nor any of their parents alleged that any student was discriminated against because of their sex or harassed because of their sex as a result of anything that occurred on bus 357.
- 16. On October 4, 2024, as part of her investigation, Ms. Opdyke began to review video footage of the events on bus 357 beginning with events that occurred on September 16, 2024.
- 17. Also, on October 4, 2024, Ms. Opdyke spoke with Becky Stern and Special Education Supervisor Ron Lock.
- 18. At Mr. Lock's suggestion, Ms. Opdyke contacted Alyssa Wright (hereinafter referred to as "Wright"), the School District Title IX Coordinator.
- 19. Wright determined that the incident on the school bus should be investigated under Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, 20 U.S.C. §§ 1681, et seq. (hereinafter referred to as the "Title IX proceeding").
- 20. On October 18, 2024, after reviewing additional video footage of events on bus 357 between September 16, 2024 and September 27, 2024 and conducting additional interviews with students and parents, Ms. Opdyke completed the School District's Reporting Form for Discrimination, Bullying and Harassment in violation of School District Policies 104 and 108.

- 21. In the form, Ms. Opdyke alleged that G.R., D.F. and J.F. had discriminated and harassed each other on the basis of age, sex and disability. A copy of the form signed by Ms. Opdyke is attached hereto and marked Exhibit "A."
- 22. On October 18, 2024, based upon the form signed by Ms. Opdyke, Wright sent O'Regan a Notice of Complaint Received form. A copy of the Notice is attached hereto as Exhibit "B."
 - 23. In the Notice, Wright informed O'Regan that:

[T]the District received a report of conduct on October 2, 2024, that could potentially constitute unlawful sex-based harassment. Your child, L.O. was named as a **RESPONDENT**, meaning that your child may be responsible for violating the policy prohibiting sex-based harassment. The report indicates that the name of the targeted student, called the **COMPLAINANT**, is G.R., who is a student at CB South. The other parties are D.F., J.F. L.O. and R. W. who are students at CB South.

24. The Notice alleges that:

- L.O. was observed engaging in conversation about the incident, cursing loudly, and appeared to be video recording an interaction between G.R. and D.F. Additionally, he was also observed on bus footage discussing with another peer that he had a video of one of the incidents in question and proceeded to show the video to that peer.
- 25. On October 2, 2024, the School District did not receive a formal complaint from G.R. that L.O. had discriminated or harassed her because of her sex.
- 26. In an email dated November 5, 2024, Kalani Linnell, Esquire, counsel for the School District, stated that the School District viewed the October 18, 2024 Notice from Wright as initiating an alleged Title IX proceeding in which G.R. is a Complainant against L.O., D.F. J.F. and R.W. and in which L.O., D.F., J.F. and R.W. are each a Complaint against G.R. A copy of the Linnell email is attached hereto as Exhibit "C."

- 27. On November 18, 2024, Michael Raffaelle, Esquire, counsel for G.R. wrote to Linnell on behalf of Ilene Young, Esquire, counsel for D.F. and J.F and undersigned counsel, to advise the School District that in their collective opinion, counsel believed it was, among other things, improper for the School District to pursue the individual claims alleged against the students in one proceeding. A copy of Mr. Raffaelle's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "D."
- 28. Counsel for the School District responded the same day and stated that because, according to the School District, L.O., D.F., J.F., and R.W. acted in concert to target G.R. relating to her disability, and because G.R. displayed her inappropriate conduct to all the students at the same time, "the decision-maker needs to understand the full scope and totality of the circumstances to make a rational decision." A copy of Ms. Linnell's letter is attached hereto as Exhibit "E."
- 29. On November 14, 2024, the School District sent O'Regan a document setting forth the School District's proposed informal resolution of the alleged pending Title IX proceeding. The School District's proposed informal resolution of the pending Title IX proceeding is attached hereto as Exhibit "F."
- 30. Among other things, the proposed informal resolution of the alleged pending Title IX proceeding would discipline L.O. by imposing a 2 day out of school suspension.
- 31. Under the grievance process adopted by the School District to resolve the alleged Title IX violations, a single decision-maker will decide each of the boy's claims against G.R. and G.R.'s claims against each of the boys.

32. L.O. has a legally protected liberty and property interest in a school record free of reports of discipline imposed by the School District.

COUNT I – 28 U.S.C. § 2201 DECLARATORY JUDGMENT

Edward O'Regan and Ana Viquez as Parents and Natural Guardians of L.O. v. Central Bucks School District

- 33. O'Regan hereby incorporates paragraphs 1 through 32 inclusive as though fully set forth at length.
- 34. A "Complainant" in a Title IX proceeding is "an individual who is alleged to be the victim of conduct that could constitute sexual harassment.", 34 C.F.R. § 1601.30. ²
- 35. "Sexual Harassment" is conduct on the basis of sex that satisfies one or more of the following:
 - (1) An employee of the recipient conditioning the provision of an aid, benefit, or service of the recipient on an individual's participation in unwelcome sexual conduct;
 - (2) Unwelcome conduct determined by a reasonable person to be so severe, pervasive, and objectively offensive that it effectively denies a person equal access to the recipient's education program or activity; or
 - (3) "Sexual assault" as defined in 20 U.S.C. 092(f)(6)(A)(v), "dating violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(10), "domestic violence" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(8), or "stalking" as defined in 34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(30).

34 C.F.R. §1601.30.

36. A Title IX grievance procedure may only be instituted after the receipt of a "formal complaint" that has either been filed by the complainant or signed by the Title IX Coordinator., 34 C.F.R. §1601.30.

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² The cited definitions appear in § 1601.30 of the Final Regulation adopted May 19, 2020.

- 37. The Notice provided by the School District to L.O. and O'Regan is not based upon a formal complaint of sexual harassment from G.R.
 - 38. The School District, in an unlawful attempt to discipline L.O., has:
 - a. Falsely represented to L.O. and O'Regan that the Notice provided on October 18, 2024 instituted a lawful Title IX proceeding against L.O.;
 - b. Falsely represented to L.O. and O'Regan that G.R. has alleged that she was sexually harassed by L.O.;
 - c. Falsely represented to L.O. and O'Regan that the conduct described in the October 18, 2024 Notice can be considered sexual harassment as defined in 34 C.F.R. §1601.30 and
 - d. Falsely representing to L.O. and O'Regan that the document attached to the email Notice was the formal complaint required by 34 C.F.R.
 §1601.30 to institute a lawful Title IX grievance proceeding.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Edward O'Regan and Ana Viquez as Parents and Natural Guardians of L.O., respectfully request this Court to:

- A. Declare that the School District's ongoing grievance proceeding against
 L.O. is unlawful;
- B. Declare that the conduct attributed to L.O. set forth in the October 18,2024 Notice from Alysia Wright is not sexual harassment as defined in 34C.F.R. §1601.30 and
- C. Order such other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

COUNT II – 42 U.S.C. § 1983 VIOLATION OF 42 U.S.C. § 1983

Edward O'Regan and Ana Viquez as Parents and Natural Guardians of L.O. v. Central Bucks School District

- 39. O'Regan hereby incorporates paragraphs 1 through 38 inclusive as though fully set forth at length.
- 40. Each of the actions taken by the School District as set forth above was taken pursuant to the authority granted to the School District by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.
- 41. Parties to a grievance proceeding alleging a violation of Title IX are entitled to procedural due process.
- 42. Procedural due process requires that a party be afforded the right to notice of significant deprivations of liberty or property and to a meaningful opportunity to be heard.
- 43. The grievance proceeding adopted by the School District which requires L.O. to present to the same decision-maker evidence in support of his claims against G.R. and evidence to rebut G.R.'s claim against him denies L.O. a meaningful opportunity to be heard on either claim.
- 44. The School District's grievance procedure forces L.O. to potentially not introduce all the relevant evidence or make all the relevant arguments in defense of G.R.'s claims against him because the same decision-maker will also decide L.O.'s claims against G.R., since by introducing all the relevant evidence or making all the relevant arguments in defense of G.R.'s claims, L.O. may undermine and weaken his claims against G.R.
- 45. Similarly, the School District's grievance procedure forces L.O. not to introduce all the potentially relevant evidence or make all the relevant arguments in support of his claim against G.R. because the same decision-maker will also decide

G.R.'s claims against L.O., thereby precluding L.O. from introducing all the relevant evidence or making all the relevant arguments in support of L.O.'s claims against G.R., because such evidence or argument may undermine and weaken his defense of G.R.'s claims against him.

- 46. The one decision-maker procedure adopted by the School District denies L.O. the right to be fully and meaningfully heard and, therefore, denies L.O. the right to due process guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.
- 47. The grievance process adopted by the School District denies L.O. a meaningful opportunity to be heard as either a respondent or a complainant by not providing a separate decision-maker to decide L.O.'s claims as a complainant and defense as a respondent.

WHEREFORE, Plaintiffs Edward O'Regan and Ana Viquez, as Parents and Natural Guardians of L.O., respectfully request that this Court:

- A. Declare that the one decision-maker grievance procedure adopted by the Central Bucks School District does not comport with the due process clause of the Fourteenth Amendment;
- В. Enjoin the Central Bucks School District from pursuing any alleged violations of Title IX by L.O. until it adopts a procedure in which one decision-maker decides L.O.'s claims against G.R and a separate decision-maker decides G.R.'s claims against L.O.;
 - Award O'Regan reasonable attorney's fees and the costs of suit and C.

D. Order such other relief that this Court deems just and proper.

DESSEN, MOSES & ROSSITTO

Dated: December 3, 2024 By: /s/ David S. Dessen

DAVID S. DESSEN, ESQUIRE Attorney ID # 17627 Attorney for Plaintiffs

600 Easton Road Willow Grove, PA 19090 (215) 496-2902 ddessen@dms-lawyer.com